

**Nesting of the Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis*) in New Jersey.**—

The Black Rail has been recorded as nesting in southern New Jersey in 1810, 1877 and 1886, and judging from these data and the secretive habits of the bird, it always seemed to me probable that it bred regularly in suitable localities where original conditions had not been altered. Inquiries among friends who do considerable gunning along the coast between Cape May and Asbury Park brought forth the fact that at least two of them had shot Black Rail in the fall, and one told me that he had seen young birds at rare intervals on the salt meadows.

I requested him to make a special search for the bird during the breeding season of 1912, and on June 22 I was rewarded with a letter, announcing the discovery of a nest containing seven eggs on the edge of the marshes back of Brigantine, which he had collected for me on June 20. On the 29th I visited the nest from which the set had been taken. It was built in a low marshy meadow, overgrown with salt grass and sedge and very skilfully concealed in a thick mass of mixed green and dead grass, so that it was completely hidden from above. In composition, it was better built and deeper cupped than the nests of the Virginia, Sora, King and Clapper Rails that I have seen. In size the nest was little larger than the average structure of the Robin, but deeper-cupped and built entirely of the dry, yellowish stalks of the sedges, and there in the lining, clung several black feathers. Thinking that there might be other nests in the vicinity we began searching every thick clump of marsh grass that we saw, and presently came upon another also containing seven eggs. It was placed among thick clumps of marsh grass and was quite invisible until the grass was parted from above. It was an inch above the salt meadow and was interwoven on all sides with the surrounding stalks. We tried hard to flush the birds but without success, although I once heard a prolonged call or succession of short quick notes, 'kie, kie, kie, kie, kie.' The first set of eggs was partly incubated while the second was fresh. It is possible both were laid by the same pair of birds. The eggs show great similarity and in each set one is peculiar being discolored with a yellowish stain. This points to their being laid by the same bird but the short space of time, nine days, seems too short a period for the building of a new nest and the laying of seven eggs.

The ground color of the eggs is creamy white, well sprinkled with fine dots of reddish brown and a few larger spots. The speckling is nearly like that seen in certain types of eggs of the Meadowlark, but the ground color is entirely different. In size they are noticeably smaller and less pointed than any of our other Rails' eggs, averaging 1.02 by .78 ins.—RICHARD C. HARLOW, *State College, Penna.*

**A Recent Capture of the Eskimo Curlew.**—I wish to place on record the capture of an Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*), taken at Fox Lake, Dodge county, Wisconsin, ten miles northwest of my home, on September 10, 1912. Sex, male, adult, fat and in good plumage. Number 7660, collection of W. E. Snyder.